



**MEASURE J ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND SUSTAINABILITY
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

Monday, March 15, 2021, 4:07 p.m.

Welcome and Call to Order.

- 1. The Economic Opportunity and Sustainability meeting was called to order by co-chairs Dan Langford and Ivette Alé at 4:07 p.m.**
- 2. Introduction and Grounding**
 - a. Dan Langford explains this meeting will review subcommittee recommendations for subcommittee voting.
 - b. Ivette goes over the last five weeks of subcommittee meetings to explain how subcommittee reached the stage to vote on recommendations.
 - i. Ivette also reviewed the years of advocacy that have preceded Measure J.
 - c. Ivette then goes over the Preamble and the importance of reflecting the demands of the Black community and Black participants in Measure J.
 - i. The subcommittee intends to submit the preamble to so that the County Board of Supervisors and Chief Executive Office understand the intention of the subcommittee recommendations.
 - ii. Ivette and Dan read the Preamble, which recognized the history of injustice towards the Black community and the intention for Measure J funds to eliminate the injustice and impact of racism, and ask the County to strategize with the Black community to fulfill the intent of Measure J.
- 3. Ivette and Dan begin to go over the summary of all Funding Recommendations Slates.**
 - a. Ivette lists each of the 7 funding recommendations and explains why \$300 million is requested to fund the proposed slate of recommendations.
 - i. 10% is the minimum in Measure J funds.
 - ii. The expectation is the amount will be between \$660 million to \$990 million and all of the recommendations also act as COVID relief strategies.
 - b. First recommendation: Identify third Party administrators or intermediary organizations to fund CBOs directly.
 - i. Examples of must-haves are;

1. Expertise in the equity-based workforce and small business development, distributing microgrants and providing capacity building and technical assistance, including grant writing.
 2. The capacity to do the auditing and reporting required of the County, limit the reporting requirements of the CBOs funded, and limit fees to a 15% cap.
 3. 50% or more of Measure J funding for Economic Opportunity and Sustainability should go to CBOs through third-party administrators or intermediary organizations.
- c. Recommendation 2: Eligible County programs can submit proposals for Measure J funds if and only if at least 85% of the funding is distributed directly to CBOs.
- i. Examples of additional details include;
 1. Eligible county programs must prioritize funding CBOs that have an annual budget of less than \$1.5 million, and larger CBOs led and in service of the communities most impacted by incarceration and divestment with a proven track record of success.
 2. CBOs in Service Planning Areas (SPAs) and zip codes of specific economic disadvantage and disproportionately impacted by LA County's carceral system must be prioritized.
- d. Recommendation 3: County identifies, funds, and provides training for a Stakeholder Advisory Board made up of leaders from the communities most impacted by incarceration and economic divestment to be a key Decision-Maker and Advisor in the Granting of Measure J Funds.
- i. Funds administered by the third-party administrators and intermediary organizations and County departments, we recommend that the County identify a stakeholder body that advises the BOS in the final decisions for Measure J funding distribution. We prefer this to be individuals who have been engaged in this Year 1 Measure J engagement process and/or in the ATI recommendations phase.
 - ii. Also Recommends that County create an advisory body of people with mental health needs within the LA County Department of Mental Health.
- e. Recommendation 4: Guidelines for Third-Party Administrator & County Administered Funds for Measure J.
- i. Examples of requirements and for organizations and programs receiving Measure J funds include that they must:
 1. Be led by and primarily serve the following populations that are most severely impacted by incarceration in LA County as identified by the JENI and the JESI. Examples include:
 - a. Reentry community.
 - b. American Descendants of Enslaved Africans, Black, Indigenous, and others disproportionately impact People of Color including Mexican-American and Central-American people.
 - i. Young

- ii. People with disabilities
 - iii. Black women
- ii. The following tracking and some evaluation practice should be used:
 - 1. Outcomes-based reporting to show that the people who needed the help actually received the help, specifically those who provide services to with mental health challenges.
 - 2. Survey and Assessments to identify needs and careers
 - 3. Accountability
- f. Recommendation 5: Workforce Development Focus Workforce Development on Reentry and High Risk/Diversion Populations in Geographic Areas Identified by the JENI and the JESI
 - i. Should include:
 - 1. Immediate Support for People reentering the community from incarceration and domestic abuse.
 - a. Guaranteed basic income (GBI) that includes voluntary wraparound services around reentry and job placement.
 - b. Rent assistance, utilities payment support, and childcare.
 - c. Mental health stipends, including gas cards and transportation support.
 - d. Holistic health services that go beyond traditional medical health services.
 - 2. Specialized Training to Help with Reentry should provide:
 - a. Supportive resources including technology (laptops/WIFI/ cell phone), child-care, rent support, transportation costs, etc.
 - b. Trauma-informed, healing-centered, and culturally-rooted approaches and work therapy models, including the arts as a healing methodology.
 - c. Support with legal fees and expungements.
 - d. 24-hour emergency supportive services
 - 3. Peer-driven Models
 - a. Employment opportunities for youth and adults to do peacebuilding and wellness work in their communities (such as the work of community health workers and holistic health providers).
 - b. Leadership development.
 - c. Focus on living wage opportunities.
 - d. Mentorship pipelines.
 - 4. Job Training and Placement Models Towards Living Wage Jobs
 - a. Seeing the process through, not job training only, paid living wages while doing job training.
 - b. Stipends/basic income for reentry populations for a minimum of 1 year and ideally for 3 years.

5. Peer-driven Social Enterprise Expansion and Development Models that Center the Experiences of Reentry and Diversion Populations.
 - a. Especially those that have healing and wellness as a central practice
 - b. Provide entrepreneurship opportunities and training along with microgrants to start their own businesses.
6. Multi-stakeholder Collaboration to Ensure that the Multiple Needs of People are Met.
7. Career Priorities
 - a. Includes but not limited to
 - i. Living wage, “high road” and union jobs where there is a high demand for more workers
 - ii. Psychology and mental health
 - iii. Hospitality
 - iv. IT
 - v. arts
- g. Recommendation 6: Small Business Support - Focus on Small Business & Social Enterprises in Geographic Areas Most Impacted by Incarceration & Economic Divestment, especially those owned by black and indigenous people, immigrant people; and two-spirit, transgender non-binary, and queer people.
 - i. Examples of the eligible existing and new business must include:
 - a. Hire locally from and contract with impacted communities in which they operate.
 - b. Have a previous and established relationship with the local community.
 - c. Support creative and innovative collaboration with the local community.
2. Priority businesses:
 - a. Are, or are transitioning to, worker cooperatives
 - b. Pay a living wage and provide benefits including health, dental, and vacation days or commit to providing a living wage and benefits to their employees using Measure J funding.
3. Fund the construction of mixed-use community-based hubs:
 - a. Include job training, education, housing, small businesses, etc.
4. Support could look like this:
 - a. Examples include direct funds and microgrants, prioritizing cooperatives, and supporting community-owned projects.
5. Recommendations for the County:
 - a. Ensure a transparent communication process so that community members know that these resources are available to small businesses.

- b. Set up a system so that small businesses receiving Measure J funds would get priority for County contracts
 - c. Increase access (including technical and legal assistance) to County-owned empty lots for the outlined opportunities above while not limiting the development of infrastructure on site (example: Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones). Infrastructure limitations limit the long-term success and sustainability of these projects
 - h. Dan discusses the Policy Recommendations
 - i. The subcommittee calls on subcommittee and Advisory Committee members, the CEO's office and the BOS to advocate for the following policies
 - i. Recommendation 7:
 - i. Reduce Barriers to Small CBOs to Receive County Funding and Ensure Equitable County Contracting. Some requested barriers include:
 - 1. Making obtaining measure j funding simple.
 - 2. Ensure equitable distribution of opportunity and County Resources through.
 - 3. Fund organizations in advance.
 - 4. Change court system policy to prioritize release/diversion services for a non-violent crime.
 - 5. Create an advisory council
 - ii. Advocate for programs and policy change to reduce discrimination against those who have been criminalized, convicted, and/or incarcerated.
 - 1. Ban the Box Policies.
 - 2. Reimagine Drug test and Drug use policies.
 - 3. All organizations and entities funded by Measure J must have gender identity and cultural training on trans people provided by experts on the subject, etc.
 - iii. C) Address poverty and generational divestment
 - 1. Reparations
 - 2. Engage Tribal Nations and Black Communities in Community land Trusts
 - 3. Universal Basic Income
 - 4. Participatory Budgeting: Since Measure J was passed by the voters Los Angeles now has the opportunity to include the broader community, especially those most impacted by incarceration, in a participatory budgeting process that supports the equitable distribution of Measure J funding and lays a framework for our County budget processes to utilize through all funding sources that have the potential to be invested in the most highly impacted communities.
- 4. Ivette then passes on to Mari for leading public comments.

- a. Mari Ryono opens the floor for questions and public comment. The following people provided public comment:
 - i. Mary Sutton
 - ii. Ron Collins
 - iii. Brad Jacob
 - iv. Diane Ujiye
 - v. Bambi Salcedo
 - vi. Hector Ramirez
 - vii. Carrie Broadus
 - viii. Treneatra Farmer-Muhammad
 - ix. Phillip Lester
 - x. Michael Green
 - xi. Jan Williams
 - xii. Tieshae Huntsman
 - xiii. Jaime Garcia
 - xiv. Amanda Sarmiento
 - xv. Maagic Collins
 - b. Ivette acknowledges public comments and wants policy recommendations plans such as just a transition plan.
 - c. Mari closes public comments.
- 5. Following the break, Ivette discussed the potential of doing live tweaks to the recommendations but warned that substantive changes will not be possible during the meeting.**
- a. Amendments/Edits
 - i. No requested edits for recommendations 2-3
 - ii. Recommendation 1
 1. Added language about limitations of law enforcement inclusion
 - iii. Recommendation 4
 1. Included the term refugees and also added South East Asia and other areas impacted by violence, displacement and impression
 - iv. Recommendation 5
 1. Added substance use counselor careers as a career priority
 - v. Recommendation 7
 1. Added language regarding the requested shift of funds out of law enforcement into living wage jobs that support community wellness
 - b. Mari explained the voting procedure and Liz asked for attendees to participate in a voluntary survey doing the vote.
 - c. Dan moved to vote on the slate as amended and Ivette seconded the motion.
 - d. Liz began role calling.
 - e. Liz ended the voting.
 - i. Community members who voted Yes/Yay: 64
 - ii. Community members who voted No/Nay: 0

- iii. Community Members who Abstained: Do not count as votes (23)
- f. 100% voted yes and the motion passed.

6. Liz opened the floor for general public comment. The following members of the public addressed the subcommittee:

- a. Carrie Broadus
- b. Amanda Sarmiento
- c. Roxana Aguilar
- d. Carl Highshaw

7. Dan and Ivette prepare to close the meeting by sharing experiences being part of the subcommittee and appreciating everyone's hard work.

8. Mari discusses and reminds the meeting about the Measure J Advisory Committee meetings in the future. Explains the dates the Advisory Committee will be meeting and that the Advisory meeting will be reviewing the funding recommendations.

9. Adjournment

Adjournment for the Measure J Economic Opportunity and Sustainability Subcommittee of Monday, March 15, 2021, at, 6:16 p.m.

There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned by Dan Langford and Ivette Alé.